



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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HR 99/HCR 26  
REQUESTING A REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES TO THE STORAGE OR  
DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS IN THE PACIFIC BASIN

Statement for  
House Committees on  
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection  
Water, Land Use Development and Hawaiian Affairs  
Public Hearing - 13 March 1981

By  
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HR 99 (HCR 26) expresses "grave concern over the United States' consideration of the Pacific Basin as a place to store or dispose of nuclear waste, nuclear by-products, or spent nuclear fuel" requests a "response to HR 40, adopted by the Hawaii House of Representatives during the 1980 Regular Session, to consider alternatives to the storage or disposal of spent nuclear fuel, nuclear waste, or nuclear by-products in the Pacific Basin"; requests the governments of the United States and Japan to cease and desist from planning and studying nuclear waste, fuel, or by-product disposal in the Pacific Basin"; and resolves that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, each member of Congress and the Japanese Diet, the United States Departments of Defense, Energy and State, the Secretary of the Navy, the heads of all nations of the Pacific Basin, and the Governor of the State of Hawaii. This statement on HR 99 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We are cognizant of and share the concern expressed by the drafters of this bill with regard to the storage or disposal of nuclear waste, by-products and fuel in the Pacific Basin. The need to consider alternative storage or disposal areas as requested by HR 40 (1980) is appropriate. As is the request in the current resolutions (HR 99; HCR 26) for a response from the U.S. government to HR 40.

We are concerned, however, with the request in HR 99 and HCR 26 that the governments of the U.S. and Japan cease and desist from planning and studying (emphasis added) nuclear waste, fuel, or by-product disposal in the Pacific Basin. Insufficient information is available upon which to make a decision as to the safest storage or disposal site for nuclear wastes. For the United States to cease from planning and studying nuclear waste disposal in the Pacific Basin or anywhere else is premature. We are not advocating the storage and

disposal of nuclear wastes in Hawaii, but we do feel that all alternatives deserve the same amount of study given to other disposal sites and methods. It is only through such studies that the safest and most effective way of solving the existing and future nuclear waste storage or disposal problems can be determined and adequate controls and regulating procedures be established.

It is recognized in the supporting statements for this resolution that some "75 million gallons of highly radioactive waste and several thousand metric tons of spent fuel" are "awaiting permanent disposal sites. We believe that this situation represents a problem which requires careful study, lest we find ourselves in the face of unforeseen nuclear accidents. By steering the solution to this problem in directions unsubstantiated by scientific data we will be taking such a risk.